

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 16**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2005-075**  
**DATE: June 24, 2005 Time: 5:00 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER: Severe Summer Storms and Flooding** – Governor John Hoeven on June 9 issued an emergency declaration to address severe thunderstorms that have produced abnormal amounts of rainfall, hail, and high winds throughout the state, and for continued flooding in the Devils Lake Basin, beginning April 9 and continuing.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No change from previous reports.
3. **DAMAGES:** On June 23, the Grand Forks Office of the National Weather Service (NWS) issued its monthly long range probabilistic outlook for Devils Lake. Devils Lake is currently at 1,448.5 feet. The report calls for a lower peak than previous forecasts that indicated the lake had a 50 percent chance of rising to 1,449.1 feet; the historic high level recorded June 17, 2004. The latest outlook indicates the lake had a 50 to 60 percent chance of rising 0.10 feet above its current level to 1,448.6 feet, a 20 to 40 percent change of rising to 1,448.7 feet and a 10 percent change of rising to 1,448.8 feet. The forecasted level was down graded from previous outlooks because the chance for widespread heavy rains has decreased as summer progresses and water loss due to evaporation becomes a larger factor. Also, Devils Lake was spared the heavy spring rains that fell outside the basin. Forecasters said they are not expecting much of a rise through October.

Engineers for the N.D. State Water Commission indicated Devils Lake measures 134,000 acres and is storing up to 2.6 million cubic acre feet of water. Stump Lake covers 10,000 acres and stores 267,000 cubic acre feet of water. The lake is up 13 feet since last spring. Flow from Devils Lake to Stump Lake is currently 250 cubic feet per second (cfs). Based on the NWS for Devils Lake, 40,000 acre feet is expected to move from Devils Lake to Stump Lake by late August, bringing Stump Lakes elevation to 1,430.6, which does not take local runoff into account.

The Bismarck and Grand Forks Offices of the NWS have forecasted a chance for strong to severe thunderstorms statewide for the weekend of June 26-27.

On June 23, the Grand Forks Office of the NWS issued flash flood warnings for Pembina County. These storms produced very heavy rain and several tornadoes.

### **River Statements**

On June 23, the Bismarck and Grand Forks Offices of the NWS indicated flood warnings remain in effect for the lower James River at Ludden Dam and Oaks, the Red River at Fargo, East Grand Forks, Oslo, Drayton and Pembina.

River forecasts from the NWS, based on current observations, are as follows:

<b>River</b>	<b>Flood Stage</b>	<b>Last Report</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Red River at Fargo	17 feet	22.09 feet @ 7:00 a.m. June 24	Crested, river trend is falling
Red River at Pembina	42 feet	42.38 feet @ 4:00 a.m. June 24	Crested, river trend is falling
Red River at East Grand Forks	28 feet	35.58 feet @ 7:45 a.m. June 24	Crested, river trend is falling
Red River at Oslo	28 feet	33.63 feet @ 7:15 a.m. June 24	Crested, river trend is falling
Red River at Drayton	32 feet	36.97 feet @ 8:00 a.m. June 24	Crested, river trend is falling
James River at Ludden Dam	12 feet	12.57 feet @ 6:24 a.m. June 24	Crested, river trend is falling
James River at Oaks	93 feet	93.48 feet @ 5:30 a.m. June 24	Crested, river trend is falling

The State Operations Center (SOC) received the following reports of storm activity from local emergency managers and agricultural officials:

### **Pembina County**

The Emergency Manager reported on June 23 strong thunderstorms moved through the county. These storms produced strong winds, heavy downpours and up to 1.21 inches of rain. Two tornadoes and one funnel cloud were reported. Several trees and branches were downed with some falling on power lines. As a result of a downed power line, the City of Hamilton was without power from about 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Nodak Electric reported 275 customers without power and Ottertail Power reported 1500 without power. All power was restored by midnight on June 23. Individuals in the rural subdivision south of Cavalier are again fighting water in their yards and basements from this rain event. The generator in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) failed to work after the second power fluctuation as a result the radio and paging communications systems were down for approximately five minutes during this time. The generator has been repaired and they have installed an uninterrupted power supply (UPS) which would supply power for 10 minutes without a generator. The sirens throughout the county were activated remotely. However, five sirens did not work because the power was out and the sirens do not have battery backup. The Emergency Manager is investigating a solution to this problem.

### **Ramsey County**

On June 23, a thunderstorm system went through the city of Devils Lake, producing 84 mile per hour (mph) winds at the Devils Lake airport, heavy rains up to 0.80 inches in a half hour and small hail. A plane at the Devils Lake airport was flipped onto the top of another plane. Within the city, damages included uprooted trees with many branches on residents' lawns and in streets. A brief loss of power occurred, a semi trailer overturned, several private and city signs were twisted and broken, and two homeowners reported damage from trees falling on their houses.

### **Ransom County**

The County Emergency Manager reported a June 20 thunderstorm that produced rain amounts varying from 0.3 inches to two inches. Five miles northwest of Lisbon, there was a report of pea size hail. A tornado struck a farm northwest of Fort Ransom and destroyed a building.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) County Emergency Board (CEB) reported damages from a storm that produced hail, high winds, a tornado and heavy rainfall that inundated the area on June 20. This, compounded by excessive rains since June 1, resulted in more than 14,850 acres of prevented planted crops and drowned crops. An estimated 3,192 acres of cropland will not be planted, and 10,588 acres damaged due to flooding and standing water. In addition, 350 acres have been impacted by erosion and/or gully washing effects and several farm buildings have been damaged or destroyed. The emergency board discussed the potential for small grain crops becoming vulnerable to fungus and disease. All crops are beginning to have weed damage as the ground is too saturated for the ground spraying operations and aerial sprayers are all backlogged.

### **Richland County**

The USDA CEB reported excessive rains and high winds since June 1 resulted in more than 264,880 acres of prevented planted crops and drowned crops, with approximately 1,300 farms being impacted. Estimates are that 35,000 acres of cropland will not be planted and 229,780 acres have been damaged due to flooding and standing water. In addition, 100 acres have been impacted by erosion and/or gully washing effects. Pastures are saturated with some becoming non-existent.

### **Walsh County**

The Emergency Manager reported that on June 23 a strong thunderstorm moved through the county. These storms produced strong winds of 45 to 60 mph, heavy downpours and rainfall amounts up to 0.65 inches. A tornado was reported north of the city of Grafton in the Auburn area. Damage reports in Pisek indicated several trees and branches were downed, with some falling on power lines. At least three power poles were downed, leaving customers without power. Some shingles were blown off the fire hall and siding was blown off the church. In Park River, residents experienced a brief power outage after five large trees and several large branches fell on power lines. The city of Nash also experienced a brief power loss. Several trees and branches were downed and some metal was

torn off an elevator. Nodak Electric officials reported 425 customers lost power and one pole was broken off; however, all power has been restored. Ottertail Power officials estimated 1,000 customers lost power temporarily and all power has been restored.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No changes from previous reports.

STATE: No changes from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No changes from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: In Ramsey County, city residents were picking up branches and trees.

On June 23, Storm Spotters were activated throughout Pembina County.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The Bank of North Dakota (BND) has created a low-interest rate disaster loan program for North Dakota residents impacted by the recent weather-related events. BND will provide loan funding and work in partnership with local community financial institutions in affected areas to implement the programs. The disaster relief loan programs are designed to assist homeowners, farmers and business owners in North Dakota counties and communities that have been impacted by storm and flood conditions. The new program will be implemented immediately and coordinated through the N.D. Department of Emergency Services and BND.

SWC engineers reported the Devils Lake outlet pipeline canal pumping system is 90 percent complete. Power lines are in place and should be operational by mid July. Also, the outlet should be ready by mid-July. Six and one-half miles of canal are ready. The State Supreme Court has heard water quality arguments but has not yet ruled. Permits have been issued to release water at 100 cfs and meet water quality constraints. The first year release cannot exceed 50 cfs. Maximum capacity of the Devils Lake outlet maintains, 300 cfs rating for the pipes and canal while the pumps are currently rated at 100 cfs. Last year's water migration raised Stump Lake to 1,444 feet.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: Local power companies and telephone cooperatives are repairing their infrastructure.

9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Homeland Security's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Susan Reinertson, Director  
N.D. Division of Homeland Security